

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date
September 16, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger, Chair
Amy Simpson
Susan Steele
Margaret Kavanaugh
Linda Borghols

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof
Brita Bishop
Melora Gaber
Michelle McCrae
Patrick Pillai

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Approval of the Agenda

Teresa Holt added a discussion of the Zero to Three National Training Institute to the agenda under Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings. Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda with the above mentioned addition. Margaret Kavanaugh **SECONDED**. The agenda was **APPROVED**.

Approval of the Past Minutes

Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the June 17th meeting. Susan Steele **SECONDED**. The minutes from the June 17th meeting were **APPROVED**. The approval of the minutes from the face-to-face meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that they will table the piece from Sheila Sellers until the next meeting.

Teresa Holt stated that the OSEP report was submitted. She reminded everyone that the report was e-mailed out to them and recommended that the committee members review it and become familiar with its contents.

Review of the Face-to-Face Meeting and New Work Plan

Teresa Holt began a review of the work plan by reviewing the goals and activities. Under Goal 1, Activity 3, the people assigned to this area are: Sheila Sellers, Amy Simpson, and Geri Benshoof. The target date is tentatively set for January 31, 2010. The start date for this activity is mid November.

Margaret Kavanaugh volunteered to help out on goals 4 and 5.

Review of Indicator 1 (Part C)

Teresa Holt explained that this indicator is the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

Amy Simpson explained that timely services means that when a child is enrolled in an ILP program, an IFSP is written, and on the IFSP are the individual services that a child will receive. There is a start date for each of those services. The State ILP office checks when there is a new service added for a child to see if that service occurred by the start date that the IFSP says.

Teresa Holt stated that according to the data sheet, the timely services is 100 percent except for ACC and PIC which met it at 97 percent, and TCC which was at 80 percent. Two of the areas had no data which means that they didn't have any children for that quarter that were being measured under indicator 1.

Teresa Holt then skipped down to the discussion of improvement activities and noted that there is a new definition of timely services. Lind Borghols stated that they can adjust for family related circumstances, but they cannot adjust for weather. OSEP does not consider weather as a reason, but they are collecting data on that so they can present their severe weather case to OSEP.

Teresa Holt stated that the issue of recruitment and retention, which is also on their work plan, was also addressed in the indicator.

Teresa Holt also stated that number five was increased referrals, especially those from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Linda Borghols explained that it is a law that any child 3 or under, who has a substantiated report of harm, must have an evaluation by an ILP for delays. She also stated that there is no money attached to that.

Amy Simpson explained that it has had a significant impact on programs because the referrals from child protection have gone up three fold, which also really impacts their 45-day timeline. She also noted that they haven't really identified many more children who are Part C eligible through this

process, but they have one staff member that is just devoted to dealing with referrals from child protection.

Teresa Holt then moved onto the state improvement activities. Linda Borghols explained that they are working on the protocol for verification visits because they are switching to another system. When they go out and do their site visits to provide technical assistance, they will have some consistency and a format which will include things like file verification, parent meetings, home visits with staff, meetings with community members, and meetings with other agency staff. In addition to this, there will also be an online data system.

The next area was recruitment and retention under state improvement activities. Teresa Holt commented that there is the SEED registry and an Early Childhood Special Ed program at UAA at the Master's level. Teresa also noted that many people have to go out of state to get an early childhood degree or credit towards a degree. Linda Borghols stated that they are working with Georgetown University, who has a grant to develop some training modules, and they are starting a pilot project. They have recruited eight people to pilot the modules to work out the kinks and provide feedback to Georgetown.

Teresa Holt asked the committee for feedback on additional issues they think the State could be doing that they could recommend as State improvement activities.

Amy Simpson asked about the telemedicine project for speech language services and if this would be the place for that. Linda Borghols stated that Lisa Balivet is heading that up and they are still working on it. Teresa Holt explained that this is a project they could share with the Rural Ad Hoc Committee. Lisa stated that she could get a report on this pilot project to the Rural Ad Hoc Committee in November or December.

Teresa Holt also discussed another area in which the OT/PT licensing board came to the State Board of Education meeting and shared their concerns about school staff providing actual therapy or doing activities recommended by a therapist. She stated that for ILP, they might want to look at the IFSPs to make sure that the language is clear that if an actual therapist is not providing the service, that it's listed as "activities as recommended by..." or something similar. She stated that the OT/PT

licensing board has approved regulations to allow teletherapy, and speech therapy is also currently drafting regulations to make that possible. It is her understanding that Medicaid regulations have already been changed to allow for that to happen on the therapist's end.

Teresa Holt also asked if the issue on the IFSP start date and signature date had been clarified. Linda Borghols stated that it has been clarified to mean that the start date of the IFSP is the first date that services were provided.

Teresa Holt stated that she is going to send out a request for suggestions to the committee members who were not able to attend this meeting. This information will be gathered and forwarded to Erin Kinavey so that it can be included in next year's annual performance report.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that she didn't have anything additional to add.

Report from AILPA

Amy Simpson stated that she has nothing to report at this time.

Report from DEED

Susan Steele stated that they did their first monitoring for Yukon/Kuskokwim last week. The Special Education Director's Conference is next week and they will be in Anchorage from the 20th through the 25th. Their next monitoring trip is to Bristol Bay in late October, and the OSEP verification visit is the 5th through the 9th. They have been very busy working on the verification visit.

She stated that Art Arnold is doing well and has been working half days and is slowly building back up to full days.

Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings

Teresa Holt listed important future conferences and meetings as follows:

- ☒ OSEP Early Childhood Conference, Arlington, VA, December 7 – 9

Teresa Holt stated that they are able to send four people: The chair, a parent, a provider and staff. They need to start making travel plans so if people are interested in attending, they should let Teresa know as soon as possible.

- ☒ Zero to Three Training Institute in Dallas, Texas, December 4 – 6.

Teresa Holt stated that the budget is set for two people and she recommends a parent and a provider. People need to be registered by September 30th. Please contact Teresa Holt if you are interested in attending.

Geri Benshoof noted another interesting pre-conference workshop before ASHA's convention in New Orleans titled: Parent Programs that Work! The efficacy of parent training for pre-schoolers with language disorders. Amy Simpson added that she will be there in a recruitment capacity but also noted another workshop dealing with distance delivery of telemedicine of speech language pathology.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EIC will be on October 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.